PRESIDENT SCORES G.O.P. OVER CUBA

Asserts Republicans Know U. S. Will Keep Big Base

By TOM WICKER
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WASHINGTON, May 22 — President Kennedy charged today that the Republicans "know it is untrue" when they raise the possibility that he plans to abandon the Guantanamo naval base in Cuba.

"I would hope that we would find a good deal more realism in the Republican conversations about foreign policies, because that is untrue," the President said at his news conference. [Question 9, Page 18.]

"They know it is untrue. But it may be the sort of thing we are going to hear now for the next 18 months."

It is almost exactly 18 months until the Presidential election of 1964. To make his point clear, Mr. Kennedy said the Guantanamo charge "indicates, as some people suspected before, that there was some political motivation in some of the attacks upon our policy with regard to Cuba."

As for the charge itself, Mr. Kennedy said it was "completely untrue."

Abandoning Guantanamo, he said, "has never been considered. It will not be done," he added.

The charge had been raised

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with "no evidence," he continued, "because we happen to be putting in an acoustical center for improving our underwater detection system in Bermuda and strengthening a naval base at Puerto Rico.

"From those two actions it was deduced we must be giving up Guantanamo."

William E. Miller, chairman of the Republican Naional Committee, called on Mr. Kennedy last Sunday to comment on reports that the United States would abandon Guantanamo and reduce aerial surveillance of the island. He did not specify where the reports originated.

The question put to Mr. Kennedy on Guantanamo contained the statement that "the Republicans have charged that some kind of agreement exists or may exist some day for our abandoning Guantanamo Bay naval base."

Mr. Kennedy's remarks were delivered with asperity. A similar inflection crept into his voice again when he denied that there was an "increasing build-up military of Cuba."

"We do not have any evidence of increasing military build-up," the President said.

He said that "there has not been a satisfactory withdrawal as yet" of Soviet troops and equipment already on the island.

"That is quite true," Mr. Kennedy said, "but we have no evidence that there is a number coming in larger than going out."

President Kennedy said that his answer covered military equipment as well as military personnel going from the Soviet Union to Cuba. "The intelligence community has not found that," he said.

On another question pertaining to the continuing "Cuban issue," Mr. Kennedy said he knew "as of today" of no arms or money going from the United States to Cuban exile groups. [Question 12.]

DISCUSSES REFUGEES: Edwin M. Martin, Assistant Secretary of State for Inter-American Affairs, who described the rivalry among Cuban organizations.

"In addition, I don't know whether it would be a matter I would want to discuss here in any case," the President said, "but to answer your question, I don't think as of today that we are. But I wouldn't want to go into details, if we were."

Informed sources said that the Cuban Refugee Council had received about $200,000 in aid a month before it broke up after its president, Dr. José Miró Cardona, resigned with an attack on Mr. Kennedy.

The aid to the refugees has been discontinued, the sources indicated.